7.1 Life's too short

Gerunds and infinitives 1

1 Identify the equipment in pictures a–o, and name each sport.

2 With a partner ask and answer these questions.

a What sports do you really enjoy watching?
b Is there a sportsperson or team who you particularly like watching?
c Which sport can't you stand watching?
d Which sports have you either taken up or given up recently?
e Which do you prefer – watching a sport live or watching it on TV?
f Are there any sports you like doing on holiday?

3 A gerund, which is a verb used as a noun, always ends in *-ing*, but not all *-ing* forms are gerunds. An *-ing* form might be a present participle or an adjective. What is the *-ing* form in these sentences?

a I pulled on the climbing rope to show I was safe.
b Anna was running along the track when she tripped and fell.
c Snowboarding is a very popular sport.

4 Look at these sentences:

1 I enjoy going swimming.
2 After learning to ice skate, I'm going to learn to play ice hockey.
3 I want to take up rowing.
4 Climbing is a fairly safe sport nowadays.
5 It's not worth going to watch our local football team because they always lose!

Find an example of a gerund above which:

a follows a preposition.
b is the subject of the sentence.
c follows an expression.
d follows a verb.
e follows a phrasal verb.



5 When we put a verb after a preposition, we usually use a gerund. Complete the following sentences with a preposition and one of the verbs in the box.

do	drop	get	learn	play	swim	teach

a She was doubtful _____ to the training session on time.
b Steve is very proud _____ to scuba dive so quickly.
c I've been very successful _____ my cousins to ride their bikes.
d Mark was in trouble _____ his muddy sports clothes on the changing room floor.
e I believe _____ some exercise every day in order to keep healthy.
f You don't have to be good _____ to enjoy it.
g I'm looking forward _____ against her again in tomorrow's match.

Grammar → page 191

LIVEWORKSHEETS